

REMARKS

Status of Claims

In the Final Office Action dated December 23, 2009,
Claims 51, 52, 58-76, 81, 82, and 84-91 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b)
as anticipated by Takizawa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,515); and

Claims 53-57, 77-80, and 83 were objected to as depending from rejected
base claims, but were indicated as allowable if amended to independent form
incorporating all limitations of the base claims.

Claims 51-52 and 88-91 are canceled.

Claim 53 is amended to independent form, incorporating all limitations of
previously pending claims 51 and 52, according to the Examiner's indicated
allowable subject matter. Claims 58, 59, 63, 64, 70, and 85-87 are amended to
depend from allowable amended claim 53, thereby rendering allowable
dependent claims 54-74, 81, 82, and 85-87.

Claim 77 is amended to independent form, incorporating all limitations of
previously pending claims 51, 70, and 74-76, according to the Examiner's
indicated allowable subject matter.

Claim 78 is amended to independent form, incorporating all limitations of
previously pending claims 51, 70, and 74, according to the Examiner's indicated
allowable subject matter.

Claim 79 is amended to independent form, incorporating all limitations of
previously pending claims 51, 70, and 74, according to the Examiner's indicated
allowable subject matter. Claim 80 is allowable as depending from claim 79.

Claim 83 is amended to independent form, incorporating all limitations of
previously pending claims 51, 70, 74, and 82, according to the Examiner's
indicated allowable subject matter. Amended claim 84 is allowable as depending
from claim 83.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments place the
application in condition for allowance or clarify the issues to be considered if the
application is appealed, that no new matter is added, and that the present
amendments do not require any new search. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully request that the Examiner exercise discretion to enter and consider the present amendments under 37 CFR 1.116.

Conclusion

Having complied with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the present amendments and pass claims 53-87 to issue. However, if the Examiner might believe that any reasons remain to prevent allowance of the amended claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner promptly contact Applicants' Attorneys by telephone so as to expedite allowance of this case.

The claims presented herein include five (5) independent claims and thirty-five (35) total claims, for which the total excess claim fees would equal \$1220 under the present schedule. Applicants already have paid a total \$1050 in excess claim fees, leaving a deficiency of \$170. Accordingly, Applicants' Attorneys hereby authorize the Commissioner to deduct from our Deposit Account 13-0235 an excess claim fee of \$170. Applicants believe no other fees are due with this Amendment and Response. However, if any additional fees are required, Applicants' Attorneys hereby authorize the Commissioner to deduct such additional fees from our Deposit Account 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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